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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating a user for access to a computer network via a network access server including a dual-access communications interface supporting both data calls and voice calls over a same physical input, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, via the dual-access communications interface, a user identification from a user seeking access to the computer network via the dual-access communications interface;

issuing a variable challenge query;

receiving, via the dual-access communications interface, a voice response to the challenge query; and

selectively logging the user onto the computer network utilizing a logon request that includes the user identification and a password, the logon request based at least in part on a comparison of the challenge query with a stored voice sample sequence that corresponds to the user identification and the challenge query ~~based upon a determination of whether the voice response to the challenge meets a matching standard with reference to a stored voice sample sequence, wherein the voice sample sequence corresponds to the user identification and the challenge query.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the variable challenge query is selected from a set of potential queries, the variable challenge query determined in a manner such that the user cannot determine, in advance of the issuing step, the challenge query.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the logging on procedure comprises submitting a stored computer network user identification and password by the network access server to a network security server.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising ~~the step of~~ receiving, in response to the submitting ~~step~~, a set of credentials for a logged on user.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising ~~the step of~~ creating an application proxy having the set of credentials for the logged on user, the application proxy carrying out requests on behalf of the user seeking access to the computer network.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ receiving a notification of successful logging onto the computer network and thereafter executing an application in accordance with vocal commands received by the dual-access communications interface.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ the application comprises a personal interactive voice response application.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ the application comprises a distributed conference bridge.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein~~ the application comprises an instant messaging application.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the challenge query is a request to repeat a phrase transmitted by the dual-access communications interface.

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein~~ the phrase transmitted by the dual-access communications interface ~~[[is]]~~ generated by a text to speech synthesizer based upon alphanumeric values.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the challenge query is a question for which a corresponding vocal response has been recorded in an authentication database entry keyed to an identified user and the question.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for authenticating a user for access to a computer network, the system comprising:

a user authentication database including for each registered user ~~[[.]]~~ an identification ~~[[,]]~~ and a set of vocal samples corresponding to the identification;
a network access server, including a dual-access communications interface supporting both data calls and voice calls over a same physical input, ~~for receiving that receives~~ a user identification from a user seeking authentication via the dual-access communications interface, ~~issuing issues~~ a variable challenge query, ~~comparing compares~~ a received response to the challenge query ~~[[,]]~~ and to a stored voice sample sequence corresponding to the user identification and the challenge query, and ~~issuing issues~~ a logon request, including a user identification and password, on behalf of an authenticated user determined by the comparison of the received response to the stored voice sample sequence;

a logon server coupled to the network access server and configured to receive the user identification and password from the network access server and in response ~~providing provides~~ a set of corresponding credentials for use by an application proxy.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, ~~wherein~~ the variable challenge query is obtained from a set of potential queries wherein the variable challenge query is determined in a manner such that a user cannot determine, in advance of issuing the challenge query, the challenge query.

16. (Cancelled).

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17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 further comprising a voice applications server ~~supporting~~ that supports a set of voice applications.
18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ the voice applications include a personal interactive voice response application.
19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ the voice applications include a distributed conference bridge.
20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 further comprising an electronic personal assistant platform ~~supporting~~ that supports an extensible set of voice accessed applications.

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21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media including computer-executable instructions for ~~performing a set of steps for~~ authenticating a user for access to a computer network via a network access server including a dual-access communications interface supporting both data calls and voice calls over a same physical input, ~~the steps~~ including:

receiving, via the dual-access communications interface, a user identification from a user seeking access to the computer network via the dual-access communications interface;

issuing a variable challenge query;

receiving, via the dual-access communications interface, a voice response to the challenge query;

comparing the received voice response to the challenge query with a stored voice sample sequence corresponding to the user identification and the challenge query;

generating a logon request that includes the user identification and a password based at least in part on the comparison of the received response with the stored voice sample sequence; and

selectively logging the user onto the computer network ~~based upon a determination of whether the voice response to the challenge meets a matching standard with reference to a stored voice sample sequence, wherein the voice sample sequence corresponds to the user identification and the challenge query.~~